

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: June 27-28, 2012

Reference No.: 2.8a.(8)
Action Item

From: NORMA ORTEGA
Chief Financial Officer

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Division Chief
Rail

Subject: **REQUEST TO EXTEND THE PERIOD OF PROJECT ALLOCATION FOR STIP INTERCITY
RAIL AND LOCALLY ADMINISTERED RAIL PROJECT, PER STIP GUIDELINES
WAIVER 12-41**

RECOMMENDATION:

The California Department of Transportation (Department) recommends that the California Transportation Commission (Commission) extend the period of project allocation for the Capitol Corridor Rail Station, Fairfield project (PPNO 6045K) in Solano County for 16 months to October 2013, per STIP Guidelines.

ISSUE:

The Commission has programmed \$4,000,000 in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for the Capitol Corridor Rail Station, Fairfield project (Project). The Project will construct a new intermodal station for the Capitol Corridor in the city of Fairfield. Major components of the Project to be constructed include a new rail passenger platform, roadway overpass, pedestrian and bicycle underpass, bus passenger platform, parking, security and other passenger amenities, as well as main-line, siding and spur track improvements.

The City of Fairfield (City) needs more time to satisfy a number of technical details for the Project, including approval of a Categorical Exemption (CE) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). FTA cannot make a CE finding under NEPA until final track layout for the Project is determined. Final track layout will address all required mitigations in the Mitigated Negative Declaration already in place pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act and will conform to guidance established by the Solano Habitat Conservation Plan. Final track layout is contingent upon confirmation of the limits of the new railroad Right of Way (R/W).

Until these environmental items are confirmed, the Plans, Specifications & Engineer's phase (PS&E) and R/W phase also will remain incomplete, which will extend the overall project schedule by 16 months. As these matters are resolved the City and Union Pacific Railroad will complete the required Construction and Maintenance agreement to allow construction within the railroad R/W. Therefore, the City is requesting a 16 month extension for the period of project allocation.

BACKGROUND:

Current STIP guidelines stipulate that funds are programmed for all components of local rail/transit grant projects or for Department construction costs are available for allocation only until the end of the fiscal year identified in the STIP. The Commission may approve waivers to the timely use of funds deadline one time only for up to 20 months in accordance with Section 14529.8 of the Government Code.